

to the attention of the Senate and that we have action in the Congress as a whole, and we send a bill to the President before we adjourn in October.

The President, in responding to a letter to TRENT LOTT, the majority leader in the Senate earlier, this month, and I think we entered this letter into the RECORD last week, so I am not going to go into all of the details; but he spells out the problems that he has with the Republican bill that is proposed in the Senate and has a lot of similarities, in a negative way, to the House Republican bill.

But I do want to point out what the President is talking about in terms of the need to move the agenda. He says that, "Since last November, I have called on the Congress to pass a strong, enforceable and bipartisan Patients' Bill of Rights. During this time, I signed an executive memorandum to ensure that the 85 million Americans in Federal health plans receive the patient protections they need, and I have indicated my support for bipartisan legislation that would extend these protections to all Americans. With precious few weeks remaining before the Congress adjourns, we must work together to respond to the Nation's call for us to improve the quality of health care Americans are receiving."

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that not only has President Clinton been talking about the need for the Patients' Bill of Rights for over a year, started very emphatically in the State of the Union address last January, but he has signed these executive orders that actually expand the types of patient protections that I talked about tonight to those within Federal health plans. Also, last year, the Congress passed and sent to the President, and he signed, the Balanced Budget Act, which also included a lot of these protections in Medicare and Medicaid programs. Not all of them, but a lot of them.

So the President has done his part, really, to not only bring this issue to the attention of the Congress and the American people, but also through administrative methods to try to include it in any plan that comes under the aegis of the Federal Government. However, none of these things apply, or at least are required under Federal law, for anyone who has private health insurance. That is not fair. Clearly, if these things are good enough for the Federal Government, for Federal employees, for those who are in Medicare and Medicaid, it should apply to everyone equally, the same way.

More needs to be done, of course, because a lot of the things are not covered even under the Federal plans because the President does not have the authority to expand all of the patient protections to those plans, so we need the patient protections that I mentioned tonight, not only to make it fair for those who have private plans, but also to cover all of the public plans as well.

The last thing, the other thing that I wanted to point out that the President says in his letter to the majority leader in the Senate, he says, "I remain fully committed to working with you, as well as the Democratic leadership, to pass a meaningful Patients' Bill of Rights before the Congress adjourns. We can make progress in this area if, and only if, we work together to provide needed health care protections to ensure Americans have much-needed confidence in the health care system. I urge you to make the Patients' Bill of Rights the first order of business for the Senate."

The President has indicated, and all of the Democrats have indicated, that we want to work with the Republicans in a bipartisan way to get the Patients' Bill of Rights, or something like it, passed. So far we have not been getting that cooperation from the Republican leadership, even though we do get support from some Republican Members individually.

So I would urge tonight, we only have less than 4 weeks left really, and I would urge my colleagues to put pressure on the Republican leadership, in the Senate primarily, and ultimately in both Houses of Congress, to get this managed care reform agenda moving. Let us have debate in the Senate, let us get something that both houses can agree on, and let us send it to the President before the October recess. We owe this to the American people, because so many people are suffering now when they are denied health care that they should have as Americans.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GOSS (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and September 15 on account of illness in the family.

Mr. ENGEL (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and September 15, on account of the New York primaries.

Mr. RUSH (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of official business.

Mr. JEFFERSON (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of personal business.

Mr. YATES (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today after 5 p.m. On account of physical reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. LANTOS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LANTOS.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MCINNIS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MILLER of Florida, for 5 minutes, on September 16.

Mr. RAMSTAD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. LANTOS) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. TOWNS.

Mr. KUCINICH.

Mr. KIND.

Mr. BENTSEN.

Mr. LAFALCE.

Mr. FILNER.

Ms. KILPATRICK.

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri.

Mr. BONIOR.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MCINNIS) and to include extraneous material:)

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut.

Mr. BILBRAY.

Mr. SHUSTER.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

Mr. COBLE.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. HOBSON.

Mr. ROHRABACHER.

Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 2094. An act to amend the Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978 to enable the Secretary of the Interior to more effectively use the proceeds of sales of certain items; to the Committee on Resources.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, September 15, 1998, at 9 a.m. for morning hour debates.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

10850. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Change in Disease Status of Great Britain Because of Exotic Newcastle